Airlines during the years 1985-86 to 1987-88 are as under:—

Year	Air India (Rs. in Crores)	Indian Airlines (Rs. in Crores)
1985-86	Profit : 66.00	Profit : 63.52
1986-87	Profit : 30.16	Profit : 63.74
1987-88	Loss : 43.41	Profit : 75.60

(b) The following steps have been taken by Government to improve the financial performance of Air India and Indian Airlines:—

—Savings of expenditure on aircraft fuel, by shortening of flights routes and improving the flying/maintenance techniques;

—increased utilisation of aircraft fleet;

—Optimum utilisation of manpower and economy in expanditure;

Frequent pre-flight checks to avoid wastage of upliftment of meals;

—Setting up of profit Committees by Air India at regional headquarters to review the cost and to find out ways and means to increase revenue.

Temporary Employees of Railways

2568. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which Railways are keeping more than a lakh a vacancies on temporary basis; and

(b) whether Government propose to regularise the services of employees who are working on temporary vacancies for more than three years?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Total number of vacancies in Zonal Railways as obtaining on 31-12-1987 was approximately 58,000. Due to recruitment procedures, there is some time lag in some cases in filling up vacancies. Some vacancies are also kept to fill up quota reserved for SC/ST and Handicapped persons.

(b) Adhoc appointments are normally not allowed. Even where such adhoc appointments are made in a few cases in the exigencies of service, there is no general policy of regularising all such appointments merely on consideration of length of service regardless of any other considerations.

Setting up of a National Commission to Deal with the Women Problem

2569. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three day Confernece of Women which was held in April this year had demanded the setting up of a National Commission to deal exclusively with their problems;

(b) if so, whether conference had also suggested that uniform civil code should be immediately introduced; and

(c) if so, what other suggestions were made and the number of those which have been considered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is attached herewith (See below). As for Government's reaction, the report of the Conference has been received only on the 3rd August, 1988 and as such it is too early for the Government to indicate how many of the suggestions would be considered.

1. That a thorough inquiry should be instituted by the Central Government into the "poor state of affairs prevailing in the widows" Ashrams in the country, especially at Brindavan, Varanasi and Puri.

2. As majority of the widows at Banaras and Mathura are from Bengal, we urge the West Bengal government to take effective steps to prevent forced migration of the destitute women and widows to the holy places for refuge.

3. The maintenance allowances doled out to these women at the ashram is too inadequate to sustain them. It should be increased substantially and should be linked with the price index, Also steps should be taken to eradicate corruption and exploitation in distribution system.

4. Temporary shelter homes should be established at rural and unit levels (mohallas) to provide shelter for destitute women in crisis.

5. Inheritance of property right to the deceased husband's property should be given to the widow. Bill on community of property rights should be enacted by which a husband and wife will share all property acquired after marriage both movable and immovable assets equally.

6. There should be reservation of jobs for widows and abandoned women with relaxation of age in government services.

7. Vocational training facilities for developing and improving skills be created along with job opportunities for widows abandoned and destitute women.

Action

(a) It was further decided that a meeting in cooperation with the women's group in Banaras and Brindavan will be organised to create awareness among widows about their rights.

(b) The Samiti has decided to fight for cases in the court to get property rights for widows.

8. Riot widows should be provided with houses free of charge and efforts should be made to give them jobs with adequate remuneration, (to bring up their family as far as possible with the same standard of living that she enjoyed when her husband was alive).

9. Notices issued to the November 1984 riot widows in Delhi by DDA (Delhi Development Authoity) to pay Rs. 42,000/-for the flats they were allotted should be withdrawn forthwith.

The above mentioned demands were exclusively for the widows. The women meet made following demands in general as under:—

1. Shankaracharya of Puri should be arrested for glorifying Sati and violating the law of this country. All citizens are equal before law and hence Shankaracharya of Puri must be arrested under the law.

2. National Commission on women with statutory powers.

3. Uniform Civil Code to be formulated immediately on the basis of equal justice to both the sexes, taking the best offered in all the personal laws.

4. Repeal of Muslim women's right on divorce Act.

5. Community of Property rights for husband and wife.

Explanation: Sharing equally every kind of property for example, tenancy right, nomination in Insurance policies, provident fund, gratuity amounts and community property and any other acquisition brought about by "Joint venture". The term "Joint venture" must be defined to take into account

the economic contribution of women's domestic chores. Women must be made independent shareholders in the co-operatives for e.g. sugar and dairy co-operatives, they should be treated as separate entities.

6. Right of the wife to the matrimonial home, in the event of estrangement.

(b) Reservation of flats in the housing scheme for single, abandoned and divorces women and allotment of priority basis.

7. Change in the Hindu law by which no property holder can will away his property by excluding his nearest relatives such as wife, daughter, widow or daughter-in-law.

8.(a) Removal of loopholes in the daughters right to ancestral property and coparcenery property. We request the Law Commission to draft Bills in the light of our suggestions and demand that the government should introduce them in the Parliament.

(b) Single unmarried daughter as well as widow, divercee and separated women should have right of residence in her parental home.

9. The recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 to treat expenditure on marriage beyond the prescribed limit i.e. 30 per cent of the yearly income of the guardian of the bride or Rs. 20,000/- which ever is less be treated as dowry should be incorporated in the Act.

10. Sensitisation of Police force to women concerned and to increase female police at all levels.

11. Special women's police cell at every police station to attend to womens complaint with an advisory committee of social workers.

12. Authorising women's organisations to send their representatives at the time or dying declaration in the cases of burnt cases of dowry victims.

13. Evidence Act should be amended.

14 Family courts should be established without delay.

15. The present education is neither empowering women nor is helping them to improve their self image or self confidence as individuals. Sex discrimination must be removed from the school curriculum and books.

16. Role of father should be emphasised and responsibilities of fatherhood must be propagated through education and media.

17. A regular committee to monitor TV programmes so that there is no negative portrayal of women.

18. Serial on 'Adi Sankaracharya' on TV should be televsied only after it is previewed by the women organisation.

19. Central legislation banning Ammiocytasis, pre-sex determination tests resulting in female facticide.

20. (a) Role of daughter as the corellary of the parents in old age be emphasised and daughters should be made conscious of the responsibility along with their brothers to accept the responsibiity of looking after their old parents.

(b) While demanding equal share in the parental property the logical corollary of sharing the responsibility of maintaining old parents be accepted by women and society.

Actions

A five member committee was set up to draft a charter of demands for the women which will be circulated to concerned organisations by Mahila Dakshata Samiti.

Efforts wil be made to enlist support from different States.

It was further resolved that Mahila Dakshata Samiti would try to create awareness in the women about their political strength and urge upon to exercise their right discreatly and

vote those candidates or party who would subscribe to their charter of demands.

Helicopter-flights to Vaishnodevi contravening International Civil Aviation Organisation directions

2570. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of CVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Civil Aviation Organisation stipulates that a flight shall not commence unless available meteorological reports indicate suitable weather conditions along the route;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that there are no communication faclites, either at Katra or at Sanjhi Chhat, to make weather reports available for a helicopter flight to Vaishno Devi; if so, the reasons for which a flight was allowed on July 14 last; and

(c) whether some pilots had complained about the poor maintenance of the helicopters; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) As per ICAO standard, a flight to be conducted under Visual flight Rules shall not commence unless current meteorological report and forecasts indicate that conditions along the route will be such as to render compliance with these rules possible.

(b) There are no communication facilities at Katra and Sanjhi Chhat. About the flight on July 14th investigation is in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

Employment of Casual Labour in Railways

2571. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of casual labourers employed by different zonal railways in the country, annually;

(b) what is the amount of money paid as wages to them, per year; and

(c) in what manner it is ensured that such labourers are actually employed and no payments are made to the non-existent or bogus labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Strength of casual labour on zonal railways during the preceding three years is as under:—

1.1.1986	1.1.1987	1.1.1988
2.15 Lakhs	2.04 Lakhs	1.97 Lakhs

(Figures approximate)

(b) Information in this regard for the year 1987-88 is being collected from zonal railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Existing rules lay down procedure for maintenance of record of attendence preparation of muster rolls, Thumb impression register, internal checks by accounts and witnessing of payments of wages to individual workers. These are designed as safeguards against bogus payments.

Suggestion for Compensation to Victims of E.P. High Dose

2572. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)whether voluntary Health Association of India has suggested payment of compensation to victims of E.P. high dose drugs after its use was first banned by Drugs Controller of India in 1982; and